

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6958
INFO USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, HR, AR
SUBJECT: DERIAN TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

1. PRENSA, CLARIN AND BUENOS AIRES HERALD CARRIED
PROMINENTLY UPI REPORT OF TESTIMONY BY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY PATRICIA DERIAN BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE, SAYING DERIAN "CHARGED THE ARGENTINE
GOVERNMENT WITH 'SYSTEMATIC TORTURES' AND 'SUMMARY
EXECUTIONS,' AND CLAIMED THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT
SIGNS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA
IS IMPROVING."

2. "IN TESTIMONY BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE US
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MISS DERIAN DECLARED THAT
SO MUCH EVIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
ARGENTINA HAS ACCUMULATED THAT TO ARGUE ABOUT IT
WOULD BE A 'WASTE OF TIME'."

3. ACCORDING TO UPI DERIAN ALSO SAID THE GOA HAS
FAILED TO CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENT TO INVITE THE
IAHRC TO VISIT ARGENTINA AND SAID ARGENTINA HAS A
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VERY SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM.

4. HERALD HEADLINED "HARSH STATEMENT ON
ARGENTINA IN THE U.S.," AND PRENSA "ACCUSATION
AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT." IN AN UNUSUAL MOVE,
PRENSA COLUMNIST MANFRED SCHONFELD STRONGLY CRITICIZED
THE REPORTED DERIAN REMARKS IN WHAT WE EXPECT WILL

BE THE FIRST OF A NUMBER OF EDITORIAL ATTACKS AGAINST
THE U.S. BESIDE THE DERIAN STORY IN LA PRENSA WAS
A UPI PHOTO OF A PHILADLEPHIA COPY PUSHING HIS FOOT
DOWN ON THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE MOVE GROUP ARRESTED
TITLED "REPRESSION AGAINST EXTREMISTS IN THE U.S."

5. WE RECEIVED THE WIRELESS FILE TEXT OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND USINFO
092045Z BRIEF REPORT ON SOME OF HER TESTIMONY.
HOWEVER, THE LATTER DOES NOT CONTAIN THE QUOTE THAT
UPI FEATURED. WE HAVE ASKED ICA TO PROVIDE IF AVAILABLE
THE VERBATIM TESTIMONY ON ARGENTINA ASAP.

6. COMMENT: IN THE ALREADY OVERHEATED ATMOSPHERE I BELIEVE WE
CAN EXPECT EVEN SHARPER GOA AND PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE DERIAN
REMARKS THAN WE HAD AFTER THE EXIM BANK REFUSAL OF CREDITS TO
ALLIS CHALMERS WHICH WAS PERCEIVED HERE AS A PUBLIC AND
FORMAL ACCUSATION BY THE USG OF ARGENTINA. THIS IS THE SECOND
BOMBSHELL WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD. I ATTENDED A RECEPTION
THIS MORNING SPONSORED BY THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE AT NEWBERRY
(AEROPARQUE). I WAS THE ONLY AMBASSADOR AND ALSO ONLY U.S.
EMBASSY STAFF PERSON INVITED. I FELT AS THOUGH I WAS WALKING INTO
PROVERBIAL LION'S DEN. IMMEDIATE REFERENCE WAS MADE TO
PAT DERIAN'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS. GREAT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED
ABOUT A TOTAL DETERIORATION IN USG-GOA RELATIONS. THE
ARGENTINE CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED IN A TACTFUL AND
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COURTEOUS MANNER AND NOT IN ANGER, AS I HAD ANTICIPATED.
I DO ANTICIPATE THAT WHEN THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS BETTER
DIGESTED ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOSE.

7. MY"GUT REACTION" IS I MAY BE CALLED IN AGAIN BY THE
FONMIN AS TO THE SOURCE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S INFORMATION
ON SYSTEMATIC TORTURE AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS. I FEAR GOA'S
ASSUMPTION IS INFO CAME FROM THIS EMBASSY. GOA MAY WELL
DEMAND THAT USG SUPPORT ITS PUBLIC ACCUSATION WITH EVIDENCE.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON LINE I MIGHT TAKE
WITH GOA.
CASTRO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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